

**MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 3, 2004**

Vice Chair Albert Godfrey called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:03 pm at the Maine Emergency Medical Services conference room, 16 Edison Drive, Augusta. Members present were Michael Albert, Jack Berry, Jay Bradshaw, Senator Bruce Bryant, Representative Thomas Bull, Chief Jeffrey Cammack, Chief John Dean, Albert Godfrey, Sr., Geoffrey Maker, Senator Richard Nass, Harty Norris, Chief Jethro Pease, Charles Soltan, David Wacker, Leslie Wiles, Steve Willis and Susan Pinette (staff). Members Representative Patricia Blanchette, John Cannon, Art Cleaves, Representative Robert Duplessie, Chief Darrel Fournier and Edward Johnston were excused.

***A motion by Mike Albert, seconded by Steve Willis, to accept the minutes of March 1, 2004.*** The motion passed unanimously.

**Reports of Committees**

Elections committee chair Jethro Pease reports the committee's unanimous recommendation for officers of the Fire Commission. The nominees are:

Chair- Darrel Fournier  
Vice Chair- Al Godfrey  
Secretary- Jeff Maker  
Treasurer- John Dean

The Elections committee further recommends the Fire Commission elect their officers for two-year terms.

***A motion by Tom Bull, seconded by Steve Willis, to accept the Elections Committee recommendations and to elect Darrel Fournier as Chair, Al Godfrey as Vice Chair, Jeff Maker as Secretary and John Dean as Treasurer of the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission. In addition, the Fire Commission officers will serve a two-year term.*** The motion passed unanimously.

The Training Facilities committee's final report was distributed to members via email and at the meeting. Members agreed to review the report prior to the June meeting. The Training Facilities committee will make their formal presentation and answer questions in June.

Fire Commission members discussed appointing a committee to review the Spring Conference. The committee would make recommendations whether to continue sponsoring the conference and to suggest changes and improvements.

***A motion by Tom Bull, seconded by Al Godfrey, to select Darrel Fournier as chair of the Spring Conference review committee and to appoint members of the committee.*** The motion passed unanimously.

Members discussed the feedback from conference attendees at and after the conference and had many suggestions and comments. Consensus was that the conference was successful and informative and members wanted to see the Fire Commission continue to sponsor the conference. The following is a sample of the comments made by Fire Commission members:

- Evaluation form for conference attendees
- Compliments for the keynote speaker
- Shorten the morning speakers
- More workshops, breakout sessions
- Focus on core topics but include new issues each year
- Improve the sound system
- Include law enforcement? Who is the audience? Fire and EMS only?
- Move to a larger location...Civic Center?
- Financial report- MMA
- Brochure- included names of individual who did not attend (i.e. Sen. Collins)
- Networking opportunities-more time
- Improve the Best Practice award presentation- should have more attention
- Event staff
- Yearly event or alternate with Fire Service Day at the State House

### Old Business

Copies of the “Statewide Mutual Aid for Emergency Management Model Authorizing Resolution” were distributed to Fire Commission members. Members had also received copies of the resolution at the March meeting from Robert Gardiner of the Maine Emergency Management Agency. Members agreed to review the document over the summer and to discuss any recommendations in the fall.

Fire Commission members discussed the status of the legislative fire caucus and continue to support its formation and agenda.

Members also discussed drafting language seeking general fund revenues for funding of the State Fire Marshal Office and Maine Fire Training and

Education; recruitment and retention (LOSAPs); and a health care study. The following members agreed to meet and begin initial discussions:

SFMO/MFT&E

John Dean  
Steve Willis  
Charlie Soltan

RECRUITMENT/RETENTION

Jethro Pease  
Jeff Maker  
Richard Nass

New Business

Jeff Cammack distributed the following materials as part of his presentation on truss construction-

1. "An Act to Improve the Safety of Firefighters" (bill draft summary)
2. Ordinance passed by the Bangor City Council in August 1998 re: wooden truss construction
3. Memorandum regarding "truss warning signs"
4. Three samples of truss warning signs

Fire Commission members agreed that marking buildings with warning signs were crucial to the safety of firefighters, especially on vacant or abandoned buildings. Bangor successfully passed an ordinance in 1998 that required warning signs be mounted on structures "which has a wooden truss assembly". Fire Commission members discussed formally endorsing and sponsoring legislation citing earlier proposed legislation. Members discussed revising the 1999 legislation and incorporating the elements of the Bangor ordinance. Members also discussed the possibilities of codes being amended through rulemaking rather than legislation and will research the alternatives.

***A motion by Jack Berry, seconded by Tom Bull, that the Fire Commission will propose and endorse legislation in 2005 supporting the required posting of warning signs on structures, including those vacant and abandoned, using wooden truss construction. The proposed legislation will revise the 1999 "An Act to Improve the Safety of Firefighters" (Representative Duplessie-sponsor) and further cite the Bangor City ordinance as a model for the required use of warning signs on structures using wooden truss construction.***  
The motion passed unanimously.

Fire Commission members discussed the final weeks of the 121<sup>st</sup> Legislative session, tax reform and the impact on the fire service. Discussion focused on the June and November referendum ballot questions, effects on local communities and potential involvement of the Fire Commission. Members learned that MMA will provide information and numbers to local communities based on their specific locality by mid-June. Members were encouraged to attend community meetings and explain the impact on local fire departments if the “Palesky” proposal passes in November.

Fire Commission members agreed to the following meeting schedule:

Monday, June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Meeting	MEMS
Monday, July 12 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Meeting	TBA*
Monday, August 2 <sup>nd</sup> (tentative)	Regular Meeting	TBA*

\* to be announced. The MEMS offices will be moving to another location this summer.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Vice Chair Albert Godfrey adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette

